Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SCUL, XF

SUBJECT: AUB DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE

REF: BEIRUT 14546

1. IT IS DIFFICULT TO RESPOND TO REFTEL SINCE THERE ARE FEW PERSONS WHO ARE AT SAME TIME INTELLECTUALLY VIGOROUS, IN POSITIONS RELEVANT TO PROPOSED SEMINAR AND LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO GET AWAY. HOWEVER, WE HAVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A) DR. HANNAH ODEH, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING

A) DR. HAINAH ODEH, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (NPC). HE IS CAPABLE OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SEMINAR, BUT CECAUSE OF HIS SENIOR POSITION HE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE. THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, OTHERS IN NPC WHO ARE LIKELY TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION, BUT PERHAPS INVITATION COULD BE SENT TO ODEH WITH SUGGESTION HE SEND SOMEONE ELSE IF HE CAN'T COME.

B) DR. MAHMOUD SAMRA, VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN OF FACULTY OF ARTS OF UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN. SAMRA IS IN RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL POSITION, BUT HE APPEARS TO HAVE LITTLE INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT MATTERS.

C) DR. SUBHI QASSEM, DEAN OF FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN. QASSEM PROBABLY BEST CHOICE. HE IS ARTICULATE AND INTELLECTUALLY VIGOROUS. AT SAME TIME HE IS INVOLVED ACTIVELY IN BOTH EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT.
D) MINISTER OF EDUCATION THOUGH HINDAWI. HINDAWI IS

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EDUCATOR BY BACKGROUND. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF SENIOR POSITION,

IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE COULD COME. AUB COULD INVITE HIM TO SEND SOMEONE ON HIS BEHALF.

- E) DR. YOUSEF ZIHNI-WIDELY RESPECTED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE OUTGOING MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. STRONG ADMIRATION FOR AUB. HE WOULD BE GOOD CHOICE AND WOULD PROBABLY BE AVAILABLE IN JANUARY.
- 2. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND AUB DESIRE TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF USG INVOLVEMENT, WE SUGGEST THEY CONSIDER INVITING AID REPRESENTATIVE IN JORDAN OR ONE OF HIS STAFF TO PARTICIPATE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR US TO HAVE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF AUB POTENTIAL IN DEVELOPMENT AREA, AND PROPOSED SEMINAR MIGHT BE GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES. AT SAME TIME USAID/JORDAN MIGHT HAVE USEFUL IDEAS TO CONTRIBUTE.
 PICKERING

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